

CONNECTICUT ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

February 22, 2012

To: Senator Toni N. Harp, Co-Chair, Appropriations Committee and Co-Chair, Legislative Management Sub-Committee of the Appropriations Committee
Representative Toni E. Walker, Co-Chair, Appropriations Committee
Senator Robert J. Kane, Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee
Representative Craig A. Miner, Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee
Representative Patricia Dillon, Co-Chair, Legislative Management Sub-Committee of the Appropriations Committee

Please find attached a copy of the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering's (CASE) testimony to be presented to the Appropriations Committee at its Public Hearing on February 22, 2012.

In addition to the testimony, the information provided includes:

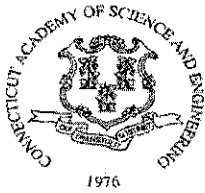
- ◆ Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering: Request to Retain FY13 Funding & for a FY12 Additional Appropriation and Authorization for a Carryover (includes a letter to Representative Roberta Willis, Co-Chair, Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, requesting increase in funding and carryover of funds to FY13 for the CASE study on *Strategies for Evaluating the Effectiveness of Programs and Resources for Assuring Connecticut's Skilled Workforce Meets the Needs of Business and Industry Today and in the Future*)
- ◆ Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering: An Overview
- ◆ Recent CASE Studies Conducted on Behalf of the General Assembly

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,

Richard H. Strauss
Executive Director
Email: rstrauss@ctcase.org

cc: Members of the Legislative Management Sub-Committee of the Appropriations Committee



CONNECTICUT ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

TESTIMONY OF THE CONNECTICUT ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
BEFORE THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FEBRUARY 22, 2012

Chairman Harp, Chairman Walker and members of the committee, my name is Rick Strauss; I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering (CASE).

On behalf of the Academy and its membership, it is requested that the General Assembly consider the following in this year's legislative session:

1. Provide an FY12 additional appropriation (totaling \$80,904) and authorization for a carryover of FY12 unexpended funds to FY13 for the current CASE study on *Strategies for Evaluating the Effectiveness of Programs and Resources for Assuring Connecticut's Skilled Workforce Meets the Needs of Business and Industry Today and in the Future*
2. Retain funding (\$100,000) in the General Assembly's FY13 Legislative Management Budget for CASE to conduct a study for the General Assembly

The Academy is a non-profit organization patterned after the National Academy of Sciences and created by special act of the General Assembly in 1976 to provide expert guidance on science and technology to the people and to the state of Connecticut. Our membership is comprised of 325 of Connecticut's most esteemed scientists, physicians, and engineers elected by the membership of the Academy.

Since 1976, the Academy has completed approximately 80 studies on a variety of issues, many on behalf of the General Assembly and others for state agencies. The Academy's convening authority enables us to have access to a wide range of independent expertise from technical experts from Connecticut and across the nation to address issues of concern to Connecticut. We are able to provide perspectives that are not bound by organizational structure and culture. Many of the Academy's projects have and will continue to provide the General Assembly and state agencies with guidance and advice regarding issues about which they may not be knowledgeable. Additionally, our projects seek to provide third party independent review for verification and confirmation of proposed solutions for guidance to create better policy and law. Members of the Academy and others from Connecticut and around the nation serve on our study committees on a pro-bono basis offering their expertise to help develop recommendations and solutions to pressing scientific and technical matters.

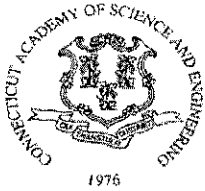
For FY13, the Academy will engage in a consultative process for the selection of a study topic with the leadership of up to eight committees of the General Assembly. CASE will identify a timely topic of high interest to the General Assembly and worthy of Academy study. The work of committees throughout the legislative session will provide the foundation for discussion of potential topics. The selected study will be overseen by leadership of committees with cognizance over the study subject. For budgeting purposes, the project would be administered by the Office of Legislative Management.

A copy of our request and backup information about the Academy including a summary of recent CASE studies conducted for the General Assembly, state agencies and others is attached.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard H. Strauss
Executive Director
Email: rstrauss@ctcase.org



CONNECTICUT ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

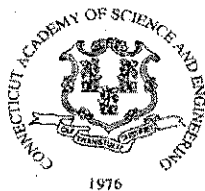
CONNECTICUT ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING REQUEST TO RETAIN FY13 FUNDING & FY12 ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION AND CARRYOVER

PROVIDING A UNIQUE VALUE-ADDED SERVICE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Purpose: *Provide objective, scientific and technical support to assist the General Assembly in their legislative mission.* Many public policy issues today have strong and, often, complex technical components that need to be carefully understood in crafting effective legislative initiatives. An important need for General Assembly members is their ability to obtain objective, non-advocacy advice on technically complicated issues impacting the development of policies and law. The Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering (CASE), founded in 1976 by act of the General Assembly, has legislatively mandated convening authority, expertise, and 36 years experience in providing expert, third party, objective perspectives and information to the General Assembly, state agencies and others.

PROPOSED GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION:

1. **Provide an FY12 Additional Appropriation and Carryover of Unexpended Funds to FY13 for the current CASE study:** CASE is under contract (*Office of Legislative Management Purchase Order #OLMM1-0000013168*) to conduct a study on *"Strategies for Evaluating the Effectiveness of Programs and Resources for Assuring Connecticut's Skilled Workforce meets the Needs of Business and Industry Today and in the Future"*. The attached letter transmitted to Representative Roberta Willis, Co-Chair, Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee identifies the details of the request for additional FY12 funding needed to cover the full cost of the study (*requested \$80,904 – includes \$28,854 for additional funding to fully fund the base study fee, plus \$52,050 for research "options" that would only be undertaken with prior approval and by a contract amendment*), and for a carryover of FY12 funds appropriated for the study that will be unexpended in FY12 to the FY13 budget.
2. **Retain funding in the General Assembly's FY13 Legislative Management Budget for CASE to conduct a study for the General Assembly:** The FY12 & FY13 Connecticut State Budget published by the Office of Fiscal Analysis, Connecticut General Assembly (September 2011), under V. Agency Appropriations, Legislative Management, Account #12384 (page 20) includes \$100,000 per year (FY12 and FY13) for CASE to conduct studies for the General Assembly. Please note for your information that the FY2013 Governor's Midterm Budget Adjustments; Section C: Proposed Appropriations – Legislative Management (page C-1) includes the funding requested.
 - It is expected that the requested funding, pending project scoping, will be adequate to conduct one study in FY13. A consultative process will be utilized to select the study topic.
 - It is intended that the topic selected for study will be based upon issues raised before committees of the General Assembly. This will help assure that the selected topic is of high interest, timely, and worthy of General Assembly funding and CASE study. Potential topics will be identified through discussions with committee leadership, and others, of up to eight General Assembly committees. CASE Technical Boards will also be consulted. CASE will prioritize and propose the selected study topic most suited for study contracting.
 - CASE will offer representatives of the committees of cognizance relative to the study topic an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the study's scope of work.
 - For budgeting and administrative purposes, funding would be provided through the Office of Legislative Management; with content-related project oversight provided through the committee(s) with cognizance on the study topic.



CONNECTICUT ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

February 17, 2012

Representative Roberta Willis
Co-Chair, Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee
Connecticut General Assembly

Dear Representative Willis,

On December 27, 2011, the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering (CASE) and the Connecticut General Assembly executed a project agreement (through the Office of Legislative Management, Agreement #JCLM12PSA0021) for CASE to conduct a study on *"Strategies for Evaluating the Effectiveness of Programs and Resources for Assuring Connecticut's Skilled Workforce meets the Needs of Business and Industry Today and in the Future"* in accordance with Public Act No. 11-1; Section 37 (page 50). Attachment 6 – Schedule of Values (attached) of the agreement identifies the project cost as follows:

- ◆ Base Study Fee - \$128,854; plus Options - \$52,050: Option 1: \$30,000 for surveying, and Option 2: \$22,050 for acquisition/analysis of data (note: *Options 1 and 2 would only be undertaken with the approval of the Project Sponsors (Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee leadership by amendment of the project agreement through OLM)*)

Please note the following provisions of the project agreement that are the basis for our request for General Assembly actions, as identified below:

- ◆ The compensation section of the project agreement states that *"compensation for services hereunder shall be limited to a total of \$100,000 in Fiscal Year 2012 and \$100,000 in Fiscal Year 2013, except as negotiated and amended in writing by both the CGA and CASE."*
- ◆ Further, due to established procedures for billing for services, for work in FY12, *"CASE shall complete work and submit corresponding invoices for that work amounting to \$100,000 by June 1, 2012. If not spent on work performed by CASE under this Contract, these funds shall expire by the end of the Fiscal Year 2012 on June 30, 2012."*

Therefore, your assistance would be greatly appreciated to provide for the following:

1. **FY12 Additional Appropriation** from the General Assembly's FY12 budget for the project totaling \$80,904, as follows:

- *Base Study Fee:* Per the agreement and above, \$100,000 is available from the General Assembly's budget in FY12 for this study. However, the reference in the agreement to the \$100,000 from FY13 for this study is intended for CASE to conduct another study (*topic to be determined*) in FY13. To enable the FY13 funding to be used for another study, additional FY12 funding is requested to cover the balance of the base study fee, \$28,854 that is above the \$100,000 currently authorized.
- *Options:* Additional funding for Option 1 (\$30,000) and Option 2 (\$22,050). (*Please note that Options 1 and 2 would only be undertaken with the approval of the Project Sponsors (Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee leadership by amendment of the agreement through OLM)*)
- ✓ **ACTION REQUESTED:** General Assembly authorization for an additional total FY12 appropriation (\$80,904), including \$28,854 to fully fund the total Base Study fee, and \$52,050 for potential "Options". This action provides for total FY12 project funding of \$180,904. This action also provides for retaining the FY13 appropriation of \$100,000 for next year's CASE study for the General Assembly.

2. **Carryover of FY12 Unexpended Project Funds**

- As stated above, according the terms of the project agreement, any unexpended funds in FY12 will expire at the end of the current fiscal year, unless the General Assembly authorizes a carryover of the unexpended FY12 authorized project funds for use in FY13.
- ✓ **ACTION REQUESTED:** General Assembly authorization to carryover any FY12 appropriated funds that remain unexpended at the end of FY12 for use in FY13 is requested.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard H. Strauss
Executive Director

SCHEDULE OF VALUES ATTACHMENT 6

STUDY FEE

1. BASE STUDY FEE (Fixed Fee: \$128,854)

The study fee includes all expenses for the study research team (*Connecticut Economic Resource Center*), including \$5,000 acquisition and analysis of on-line job posting data), CASE project staff, editor, and report printing. Also, CASE will be paid for its indirect expenses based on the above listed project expenses. In addition, the fee includes payment for the value of the CASE study committee. It is noted that the members of the study committee provide their service to the Academy on a voluntary pro-bono basis.

a) CERC Fee; includes \$5,000 for data acquisition and analysis:	\$55,000
b) CASE Staff:	\$13,049
c) Report Printing:	\$ 2,600
d) Indirect Expense:	\$33,205
e) Study Committee:	\$25,000

TOTAL STUDY FEE: \$128,854

2. ADDITIONAL STUDY TASK OPTIONS:

The following are estimated additional fees for study task "Options" to be undertaken upon request and only upon General Assembly authorization. Please note that the costs associated with the cited options are "rough" estimates only, and subject to change based on defining the final scope for each option and selection of and negotiation of cost with task sub-contractor.

a. OPTION #1: Phone Survey of Businesses: \$30,000

b. OPTION #2: Additional Data Acquisition and Analysis: up to \$22,050, pending cost of additional data required and related data analysis

PROJECT PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

♦ Progress Payment A: \$25,000

Completion of Draft Report Section: Connecticut Practices & Literature Review - \$25,000

♦ Progress Payment B: \$25,000

Completion of Draft Report Section: State/Region Best Practices

♦ Progress Payment C: \$25,000

Completion of Draft Section: Summary of Interviews/Focus Group Sessions

♦ Progress Payment D: \$25,000

Delivery of Published Final Study Report (print and PDF versions)

♦ Final Payment: \$28,854

Upon conducting a Study Briefing for the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, as well as the Commerce Committee, Education Committee and Labor Committee.

◆ **Additional Payments for OPTIONS:** Payments for the Options identified in the Scope of Work, if authorized in writing by the General Assembly will be specified in authorizations to proceed with such tasks.

CONNECTICUT ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

AN OVERVIEW

Background:

The Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering is a non-profit institution patterned after the National Academies that was created in 1976 by Special Act of the General Assembly. The Academy's membership is limited to 400 distinguished Connecticut scientists, physicians, and engineers that are elected by its membership. The Academy's legislatively mandated mission is to provide expert guidance on science and technology to the people and to the state of Connecticut, and promote the application of science and technology to human welfare and economic well being by:

- Advising government leaders
- Strengthening Connecticut's student science and technology programs
- Informing Connecticut's citizenry on science and technology topics

The Academy's Added-Value:

For 36 years, the Academy has provided the state with a readily available resource for timely access to sound objective technical advice, guidance and leadership. During this period, the Academy has performed over 80 in-depth studies for the Connecticut General Assembly and/or state agencies—many of which have resulted in either policy or law changes. The Academy's convening authority allows it to engage the best technical experts from Connecticut, across the nation to address issues of concern to Connecticut.

Sample Recent Activities:

➤ In-Process Studies and Projects

- ◆ **General Assembly: Workforce Alignment Study** (*"Strategies for Evaluating the Effectiveness of Programs and Resources for Assuring Connecticut's Skilled Workforce meets the Needs of Business and Industry Today and in the Future"*)
- ◆ DPH and the Connecticut Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee (SCRAC) – *Responsible for managing and overseeing the CT Stem Cell Research Program's Peer Review Process*
- ◆ ConnDOT: Alternative Methods for Safety Analysis and Intervention for Use by ConnDOT for Contracting Vehicles and Drivers for Transportation Projects and Services
- ◆ ConnDOT: Benchmarking Connecticut's Transportation Infrastructure Capital Program with Other States
- ◆ Albertus Magnus College (*on behalf of the Office of Financial and Academic Affairs for Higher Education*): External Evaluation of Project Algebra: Preparing College Ready Students Using a Standards-Based Curriculum Examining Professional Development – An Observational Framework
- ◆ Connecticut Medals of Science and Technology – responsible for selection of the Medal winners (*on behalf of Office of Financial and Academic Affairs for Higher Education*)
- ◆ Hartford Courant: Partner in producing *Science Matters* series for the Courant's *Newspapers in Education* Program
- ◆ Academy Bulletin – published quarterly

➤ Completed Studies

- ◆ Office of Consumer Counsel/PURA: Guidelines for the Development of a Strategic Plan for Accessibility to and Adoption of Broadband Services in Connecticut (2011)
- ◆ CEAB: Advances in Nuclear Power Technology (2011)
- ◆ OPM: Energy Emergency Assurance Planning, Capabilities and Resources – *A multi-year project funded by the U.S. Department of Energy that involved assisting OPM's Energy Office (DEEP as of 7/1/12) in revising the state's Energy Assurance Plan (formerly Energy Emergency Preparedness Plan), developing an energy supply disruption tracking process, participating in an interstate energy emergency exercise and planning for an intrastate exercise*
- ◆ ConnDOT: Environmental Mitigation Alternatives for Transportation Projects (2010)
- ◆ ConnDOT: Design-Build: A Transportation Project Methodology for Connecticut's Consideration (2010)
- ◆ CEAB: Feasibility of Utilizing Waste Heat from Power Plants for a Useful Purpose (2009)
- ◆ **General Assembly: Independent Monitor – Implementation of UCHC Study Recommendations (2008/2009)**
- ◆ **CT Clean Energy Fund *on behalf of the General Assembly*: Preparing for Connecticut's Energy Future (2009)**
- ◆ **General Assembly: A Needs Based Analysis of the UCHC Facilities Plan (2008)**
- ◆ ConnDOT: Weigh Station Technologies and Practices (2008)
- ◆ ConnDOT: Applying Transportation Asset Management in Connecticut (2008)
- ◆ OPM: Development of a Real-Time Energy Report - *to encourage energy conservation* (2008)

Contacts:

CONNECTICUT ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

AN OVERVIEW

- ◆ **ConnDOT *on behalf of the General Assembly*: The Feasibility of Utilizing Fuel Cells to Generate Power for the New Haven Rail Line (2007)**
- ◆ DPH/Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee: Guidelines for Developing a Strategic Plan for Connecticut's Stem Cell Research Program (2007)
- ◆ **General Assembly: Energy Alternatives and Conservation (2006)**
- ◆ **General Assembly: Evaluating the Impact of Supplementary STEM Educational Programs (2006)**
- ◆ **General Assembly: Advanced Communications Technologies (2006)**
- ◆ ConnDOT: Preparing for the Hydrogen Economy (2006)
- ◆ ConnDOT: Improving Winter Highway Maintenance – Case Studies for CT's Consideration (2006)
- ◆ ConnDOT: Information Technology Systems for Use in Incident Management & Work Zones (2006)
- ◆ DECD: Assessment of a Connecticut Technology Seed Capital Fund/Program (2005)

➤ Technical Reviews and Assessments

- ◆ DPH: Biomedical Grant Proposal Review Project – *Assistance to DPH for the review of research grant proposals in the fields of heart disease and cancer, as well as other tobacco-related diseases. Funding for this grant program is provided through the state's Tobacco Fund (2011, 2010, 2009)*
- ◆ DEP/DPH/UCHC/CT Agricultural Experiment Station: Peer Review of the state's "Evaluation of the Health and Environmental Impacts Associated with Synthetic Turf Playing Fields Study" (2010)
- ◆ Clean Energy Fund: Hydro Tidal Turbine Technology Proposal Review (2008); Solar Thermal Technology Proposal Review (2007); Low-Head Hydro Power Proposal Review (2007)
- ◆ Connecticut Innovations: Extended-Life Oil Filter Technical Review (2007)
- ◆ Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology: Review Draft Fuel Cell/Hydrogen Economic Development Plan (2007)

➤ Strengthen Connecticut's Student Science and Technology Programs:

- ◆ Celebrating the achievements of young scientists and engineers through the Academy's Annual Student Awards Program
- ◆ Serving on executive advisory boards for: CT FIRST; Connecticut Junior Science and Humanities Symposium; and Connecticut Association for Mathematically Precocious Youth. Also, serving as a member of the advisory board for the University High School of Science and Engineering
- ◆ Assisted the Stepping Stones Museum for Children in the development of a new Energy Exhibit that will be, as well as the development of a related traveling Energy Exhibit for use in schools around the state and at the One Thing Energy Exposition in the Fall 2008.
- ◆ Conducted exciting science pilot programs on behalf of Connecticut Science Center and the Connecticut Department of Education; Westinghouse Electric Company; Connecticut Career Choices (Office for Workforce Competitiveness)

Contacts:

CONNECTICUT ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

RECENT CASE STUDIES/PROJECTS CONDUCTED ON BEHALF OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (NOVEMBER 2005 – FEBRUARY 2012)

CURRENT STUDY

Strategies for Evaluating the Effectiveness of Programs and Resources for Assuring Connecticut's Skilled Workforce Meets the Needs of Business and Industry Today and in the Future

Project Start Date: 12/27/11; Projected Completion Date: 01/2013

Connecticut has been known as a national leader in providing business and industry with an educated and skilled workforce. However, reportedly the state's national ranking has been declining. Connecticut has multiple state agencies (and organizations) involved in projecting demand, identifying the current state of the workforce, and funding programs for a variety of workforce development initiatives. The study will identify strategies and mechanisms to assess and evaluate the value and effectiveness of state programs and resources with a goal of providing businesses and industries in Connecticut with a skilled workforce (*focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics related fields*) that meets the needs and expectation of employers, and at the same time, seeks to insure our students that they are receiving the education they need and should expect in order to successfully work in today's jobs/careers and in the jobs/careers of the future.

COMPLETED STUDIES

The following summary describes the three studies completed by the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering (CASE) on behalf of committees of the General Assembly over the past several years. Executive Summaries and the complete study reports are available in PDF format on the Academy's website at:

<http://www.ctcase.org/index.html#sciencenews>

Independent Monitor for the Implementation of UCHC Study Recommendations

Phase 1- Released 6/11/08; Phase 2 – Released 1/30/09; Briefing Conducted for the Appropriations, Finance, Revenue and Bonding, Higher Education and Employment Advancement, and Public Health Committees on 2/3/09

The Academy was named in Special Act 08-4 to serve as independent monitor to report on progress of the two-phase process for the implementation of recommendations of the 2008 UCHC study. Phase 1 involved the development of Vision and Guiding Principles and Solicitation of Interest documents by UCHC with input from its prospective regional hospitals. The Academy provided comments to UCHC with respect to these documents and reported on Phase 1 progress to the committees of cognizance. The Phase 2 process involved the Solicitation of Interest process which resulted in receipt of proposals from regional hospitals in which the hospitals were offered the opportunity to propose their interest in serving as hospital partners to support UCHC's education and research missions, as well as to state their interest in serving as a principal clinical hospital partner for UCHC through the operation and management of clinical facilities to be constructed on the UCHC campus as a replacement for John Dempsey Hospital. The Academy provided periodic reports to the committees of cognizance throughout the Phase 2 process and provided a final report that offered comments with respect to the proposed principal clinical partnership between UCHC and Hartford Healthcare Corporation, as well as the development of the Connecticut Health Education and Research Collaborative that includes UCHC regional hospital partners.

A Needs Based Analysis of the University of Connecticut Health Center's Facilities Plan

Released 3/18/08; Briefing Conducted for the Appropriations, Commerce, Finance, Revenue and Bonding, Higher Education and Employment Advancement, and Public Health Committees on 3/18/08

This study was commissioned under legislation adopted in 2007 by the Connecticut General Assembly as a result of a proposal presented to the General Assembly by UCHC to construct a 352-bed hospital to replace the aging 224-bed John Dempsey Hospital (JDH) that met with concern about the financial implications for hospitals in the Greater Hartford area. Guiding themes that emerged through the study process included: Commitment to a common vision and mission between UCHC and its clinical hospital partners for academic medicine (medical and dental education, clinical care, and biomedical research); awareness of historical perspectives; development of sustainable effective collaborative relationships; access to state-of-the-art clinical care facilities; and accountability to the General Assembly

The study's recommendations provided guidance that shaped discussions in support of a productive regional environment for academic medicine. As a result of this study the General Assembly enacted Special Act 08-4 which established a two-phase process for UCHC to implement the recommendations of the study and the naming of an independent monitor to report on progress of the process to the General Assembly.

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Lou Manzione, Vice President; Email: manzione@hartford.edu

CONNECTICUT ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Energy Alternatives and Conservation

Released 12/31/06; Briefing Conducted for the Commerce and Environment Committees on 2/22/07

The Commerce, Energy and Technology, and Environmental Committees of the Connecticut General Assembly asked CASE to conduct an assessment of energy alternatives and conservation actions which have the potential to reduce reliance on oil and other fossil fuels over the next ten years; which are applicable to Connecticut; and which would spur innovation, diversity and consumer choice. To conduct this assessment, CASE assembled a Study Committee of both in-state and national experts on energy efficiency, conservation, and alternative energy. Energy legislation adopted in 2007 included several recommendations included: development of a real-time energy report for use on TV; development of email and cell phone energy alert systems; electricity summer savings program; and municipality option to provide property tax abatement for fuel efficient vehicles.

Evaluating the Impact of Supplementary Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Educational Programs

Released 12/22/06; Briefing conducted for the Education Committee on 2/9/07

The Education Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly asked CASE to conduct a study to identify the best practice characteristics of supplementary science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) programs outside the formal education environment, or Out-of-School Time (OST). The Education Committee also noted an interest in learning about existing cost-benefit analysis procedures and teacher training activities for OST STEM-related programs. OST programs and activities represent a critical set of supplemental learning assistance — non-school support for children and families that can enhance and promote learning and development by complementing school-day efforts. The CASE Committee agreed that to achieve the goals of this study, it would develop a framework from which the General Assembly can reliably measure the effectiveness of programs seeking funding, rather than to develop a program and cost-benefit analysis for any specific program. The Committee decided to look at “indicators” in a broad, generalized sense and then consolidate them into what is feasible within a “Connecticut Context.” The study’s “Findings and Suggestions” are based on a review of the relevant evaluation and continuous improvement literature, and interviews with key professionals involved in the design and use of evaluation and continuous improvement strategies in after-school programs. The state Department of Education posted the study on their website as a resource for organizations submitting proposals to the department to use in considering evaluation methodologies for their projects.

Advanced Communications Technologies

Released 12/15/06; Briefing Conducted for the Commerce and Energy & Technology Committees on 1/25/07

During the past several years, Connecticut has identified and implemented strategies for growing its economic base and for achieving a leadership position in the rapidly evolving global economy. As part of that effort, the Energy & Technology Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly asked CASE to “conduct an assessment of the benefits of creating a world-class digital/communications infrastructure (WCCI) for businesses and individuals in Connecticut, and to identify what needs to be done to accomplish that goal.”

ADDITIONAL STUDIES CONDUCTED FOR OTHERS ON BEHALF OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

➤ Preparing for Connecticut’s Energy Future

Released 12/27/08; Briefing Conducted for the Energy & Technology Committee on 1/22/09

The Academy was named in legislation, PA 08-168, to conduct the study through the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund.

➤ A Study of the Feasibility of Utilizing Fuel Cells to Generate Power for the New Haven Rail Line

Released 8/29/07; Briefing Conducted for the Energy & Technology Committees on 10/10/07

The Academy was named by ConnDOT to conduct the study in accordance with PA 06-136.

Contacts: